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"door were opened wide to the Indian, it would  
"have to be for the white man as well, and the  
"game and the fish would rapidly disappear. In  
"the eastern parts of Canada, where they had not  
"been careful in this respect, the fish and game  
"had disappeared. In some other places such game  
"was almost gone. Coming back such game was in  
"these latter places, through laws having been  
"enacted in time preventing hunting or fishing  
"for a few years, the wisdom of such legislation  
"being thereby proven. Similar conditions obtained  
"as to the fish. The Atlantic oysters, not being  
"protected in certain places, have completely  
"disappeared, so that it would seem that these  
"close seasons complained of by the Indians, were  
"really quite as much in the interest of the  
"Indian as of the white man. The Government recog-  
"nizing, however, that these close seasons worked  
"greater hardship upon the Indian than upon the  
"white, had made certain provisions by which the  
"Indian might enjoy privileges which the white man  
"does not, as in the use of nets for fishing in  
"deep water for food only during the close season,  
"and killing deer under permit from the Game Warden,  
"for the use of himself and members of his family".

From the above, you will see that the statement  
made by Chief Matthias, to which you refer, was entirely with-  
out justification. We are sending to the Indian Agent for  
the District a copy of this letter, with a request that he  
take earliest opportunity to acquaint the Indians with the  
matter of its contents.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,